

#99 THE DREAM.....

I am standing waist deep in the ocean in rough pounding waves. The under current is strong and is attempting to pull me out into more dangerous waters. Soon I see a large shark rapidly coming toward me. I quickly stand upright and keep my body and legs as still as possible hoping the shark will not notice me. The whole time I am being tempted with terror and fear of the shark's biting off my legs. The beast passes by, however, not detecting me.

I then walk up out of the waters onto the beach of an island of dense undergrowth. After awhile I find myself in a village that appears deserted. There I discover many sizes and grades of gold bars. While I am handling and looking at these bars a friendly man appears and gives me some gold to take with me.

The rough currents and waters of the ocean in this dream symbolize the enemy's attacks and battles against us. He seeks to weaken our spiritual progress and walk by carrying us deeper into his territory. The shark also signifies the enemy as a predator seeking to devour and destroy us. The shark seeks to capture the weak, the sickly and the unwatchful---easier prey to obtain. While in the rough waters I was aware the current was attempting to lift my legs and feet, so my footing would give way and I would be drawn out into its depths. I was aware, too, that the shark was seeking to devour, and I guarded my legs foremost.

Our feet and legs speak to us of our spiritual walk and progression which the enemy seeks to weaken and cripple. It is difficult to use our sword, shield and armor while lying on our backs. If we can remain standing in conflict, our shoes (which speak to us of peace) will aid in defeating the attacks of fear and terror. No matter the battle, we are to remain standing to the end---"having done all, to stand." When the wind, flood and storm beat against our spiritual house it will stand as we rely on Christ and on His provisions.

The village in the jungle symbolizes a hidden place---hidden from the normal view and not trod by the common. In it was gold, a symbol of Godly purity and valued, lasting treasures. The gold came in different sizes and grades. These types speak to us of different rewards and degrees of treasure to be obtained. Pure gold is twenty-four karat---all gold with no alloy. Eighteen karat gold is three-fourths gold and one-fourth silver, copper or some other metal. Fourteen karat gold, the most common in American jewelry, is fifty-eight per cent gold. Gold is a reward or symbol of our treasures being laid up in heaven. The overcomer's crown is made of gold. The apostle Paul states that only our works done in the right spirit and inspired by God will be counted as gold, silver and precious stones.

When we battle down here on earth and overcome our enemies we are rewarded by our Lord. Much of our reward is for the next life, so we are laying up treasure now. Christ said that every cup of cool water given in His name to His children will not lose its reward. Every temptation resisted, every self-denial endured and every deed done for Christ with His approval will be fully rewarded one day. This reward will be forever and none can take it away. The book of Hebrews states that God is not unrighteous to forget the work we do in His name and for His children (Hebrews 6:10).

The kind man in the jungle giving me the gold bars symbolizes God's messenger being sent to reveal that we will receive rewards here on earth, too. We will obtain fruits of our labors here to encourage us that God delights in blessing us, and to show us our labors for Him are not in vain.

We determine the degree and quality of gold obtained by our degree of yieldingness and submission to God's will and plans. Our motives and intents will determine the purity of the gold being laid up. Many Christians will bear thirty-fold, some sixty and some a hundred-fold. One day we all as

true believers will stand before the Lord to obtain our rewards from Him. Let us go for the higher grade of gold.